

Our Purpose

To examine Arizona Special Education State Board 401 rules, to propose rules that are clear, instructive, and aligned to the IDEA, and to provide guidance for implementation.

Core Team

Kristina Blackledge
Advocate & SEAP Member

Angela Denning
Arizona Department of Education
Deputy Associate Superintendent

Craig Carter
Director of Special Services
Washington Elem School District

Mollie Casson
ESS Director, Kingman Unified

Jan Cawthorne
Executive Director of Special Education,
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Wendy Collison
Director of Special Education
Glendale Union High School District

Elizabeth Conran, Chief Academic
Officer, The Menta Group

Sarah Gamble
Director of Special Education
Primavera Online High School

Kristen Hartsuff
Director of Special Education
Glendale Elementary School District

Lorrane McPherson
Treasurer, AZCEC

Kimberly Peaslee,
Parent & Chairperson of CAC & SEAP
Member

Heidi Sinkovic
Director of ESS, The Leona Group

Chris Tiffany, Raising Special Kids &
SEAP Member

Our Group Norms

- We engage in active listening
- We seek to understand
- We strive for a collective impact
- We honor the communication plan
- We support working for the greater good
- Our communication is timely and accurate
- We use rubrics to evaluate our work
- We need to learn and “unlearn”
- Reflection is critical to our success

Consensus--A two tiered approach:

The Core Team will work toward unanimous consensus on every issue. If not an unanimous consensus the group will use a supermajority vote (11/13).

Rule Committee – Core Team October 3, 2014 Communiqué

Core Team Attendees: Wendy Collison, Beth Conran, Kim Peaslee, Craig Carter, Lorrane McPherson, Kris Hartsuff, Kristina Blackledge, Heidi Sinkovic, Sarah Gamble

ADE Support Staff: William McQueary, Cindy Bolewski, Maria Durazo, Ramona Mentor, Jin Jiu Park

Meeting Location: ADE on Osborn

You’ve got to think about big things while you’re doing small things, so that all the small things go in the right direction.

GOALS for Today: Complete the proposed rule on SLD eligibility.

What we did:

- We reviewed feedback from the field via the Directors Institute and ESS Inbox and recommendations from the committee members for future rule committee presentations.
- We reviewed information from John Copenhaver, Director TAESE, California, Kentucky, IDEA, 9th Circuit decisions, letters from OSEP, and current practices in the field to consider recommendations for AZ rule for SLD.
- We developed a list of experts in the field of SLD and determining eligibility for SLD whose input would be specifically sought regarding issues for SLD rule writing.
- We developed a list of items the committee still needs to finalize for the rule making process for evaluation and eligibility.

What we learned.

- We learned that there are a variety of ways to determine eligibility for SLD currently in use and IDEA does not allow the State to require the use of a severe discrepancy model to determine SLD eligibility.

What we accomplished.

- We determined that the committee is not ready to roll out information on the SLD rule recommendations on 10/20/14. The large group meeting is planned be held 11/14/14.
- We determined a list of key participants and experts to invite to the large group meeting on 11/14/14 to discuss SLD eligibility and input for the guidance document.
- We developed a survey to send out to the field requesting feedback for the proposed SLD rule.
- Next meeting is Monday, October 20 from 8:00 am – 2:00 pm and we will finalize the draft SLD rule and other areas of discussion, e.g. evaluation.
- At the 10/2014 meeting a decision will be made whether or not to send a “Save the Date” for a large group meeting on 11/14/14 to gather additional information regarding SLD will be sent to the field and experts in SLD evaluation.
- Adopted an introduction for evaluation that describes the multiple considerations for determining each area of eligibility.
- We finalized a draft of recommended changes for SLD Eligibility Determination.

Next Steps:

- Send today’s draft rule on SLD to the absent members of the committee for input.
- Lorrane will create a draft survey to be sent to the committee members for approval prior to sending it out to the field for input.
- Next meeting on 10/20/14: Review input from SLD survey, finalize draft SLD rule, decide and determine the use of 11/14 meeting, begin work on the IEP.

We Want to Hear from You!

- Please send your comments to AZBoardRuleCommitteeInBox@azed.gov . We look forward to hearing from the community at large, Key Advisors and Extended Partners on our work to date and future agenda items. These documents along with key documents are posted on the Director’s Corner at:
 - <http://www.azed.gov/special-education/category/directors-corner/>